

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA:GMILLER:KA

APPROVED BY EA:KMQUINN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 121523

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EA SUMMARY ITEMS FOR MAY 25, 1977

1. WHITLAM ON CIA INVOLVEMENT IN AUSTRALIA (UNCLASSIFIED). AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER GOUGH WHITLAM STRONGLY ATTACHED PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT ON CIA ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA. WHITLAM CLAIMED THAT FRASER'S "WORTHLESS" STATEMENT SHIRKED THE REAL ISSUE OF WHETHER AUSTRALIA WAS PREPARED TO TOLERATE INTERFERENCE BY AGENTS OF A FOREIGN POWER. WHITLAM'S REMARKS WERE LARGELY A REHASH OF ALLEGATIONS BY CHRISTOPHER BOYCE, AGEE AND MARCHETTI. WHITLAM ALSO RAISED AGAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF CIA INTERFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA IN THE 1975 ELECTIONS, CITING A MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON TO THE AUSTRALIAN SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION IN NOVEMBER 1975, JUST BEFORE WHITLAM'S DISMISSAL BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

2. WIDEMAN CASE (CONFIDENTIAL). WASHINGTON POST AND ABC
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NEWS MANILA STRINGER WIDEMAN HAS ASKED HIS EMPLOYERS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY HERE ABOUT HIS LACK OF A VISA AND PRESS ACCREDITATION. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A RUN AROUND BY PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TATAD, WHO APPEARS TO BE A SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM. MRS. MARCOS HAS ALSO WEIGHED IN AGAINST WIDEMAN. WIDEMAN

HAS NOT YET REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN MANILA,
ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY
PERSONNEL. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT THE GOP SEEMS
UNWILLING TO EXPEL WIDEMAN, BUT IT DOES NOT WANT HIM TO
BE ABLE TO FUNCTION AS A JOURNALIST. THE EMBASSY FEELS
THAT THIS STAND WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CAUSE AN ADDITIONAL
PR PROBLEM FOR THE PHILIPPINES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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